

HB 5521

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and Members of the Public Health Committee:

As a Licensed Psychologist in Connecticut I am writing in strong opposition to HB 5521 for the following four reasons:

- 1) The term “psychologist” reflects doctoral level providers (both in Connecticut and on a national level);
- 2) Allowing licensure of master’s level psychologists would create public confusion regarding provider education and training; and,
- 3) Master’s level clinicians are currently able to become licensed in Connecticut as “Licensed Professional Counselors” (LPC’s).
- 4) This bill does not impact school psychologists, as they are under the authority of the Department of Education.

Additionally, in my experience, individuals seek services with doctoral level practitioners due to the extensive training that is required to earn the degree as well as the post graduate training requirements for license eligibility. An individual with a doctoral degree has completed at a minimum 4 years of supervised training in various types of settings, and a minimum of 3 years of graduate course work before becoming eligible for licensure. The standards to matriculate into a doctoral program are also more rigorous, and with many steps along the way, at which they can at any point be dismissed from the program without obtaining a degree.

It is for each of these reasons, I am urging you to oppose HB 5521.

I ask that you give this matter further consideration and thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Best regards,

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Licensed Psychologist

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